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BREEDING NEW STRAWBERRIES.

EVERGREEN PLANTATION

NEW MEADOWS, IDAHO.

By William Marshall Freeman in "Strawberry Items,"

Our New Strawberry Magazine.

ABOUT 10 years ago I began setting varieties of ever-bearing strawberries, buying the Superb from Mr. Farmer at \$5 a dozen, Autumn, Productive and Pan-American at \$2.50 a dozen. Later I secured other kinds including Francis, Americus, Progressive and various seedlings from Mr. Gardner of Iowa, whom it is said, would become so enthusiastic when propagating them that he would forget to go to dinner. Ever-bearing varieties at that time were entirely new, having been discovered by Samuel Cooper the year of the Pan-American Exposition.

It should be mentioned that all the ever-bearing varieties have come from the Pan-American, Mr. Cooper's original variety. About the time I got fairly started, I read in the Fruit Grower of St. Joseph, Mo., a letter from Albert F. Etter describing a new race of strawberries bred up notably from the wild beach strawberry, which is native to the Pacific coast from Alaska to Patagonia. I got into communication with Mr. Etter and traded plants of all my ever-bearing varieties for plants of 17 kinds of his new race berries.

It happened that I planted them in two rows, with a row of Productive ever-bearing between them. It just happened that way. Productive being a pistillate berry, could not fertilize its own bloom, therefore its seeds were crossed with all 17 of the new race berries. I lost several years by failure to get the seeds to grow. Perhaps it would be well to give specific directions for growing strawberries so that any reader of Strawberry Items may grow his own as surely as he can grow radishes.

When the strawberries are ripe, get a pail full of leaf mould, crush the berries in it thoroughly, then spread on the surface of the seed bed and cover with four thicknesses of burlap weighted with boards. Do not disturb until spring, then remove the covering. Each plant will be a new variety.

Now there is one peculiarity about crossing ever-bearing with the new race. Usually you are lucky to get one variety in a thousand worth keeping. But with the new race cross, about one-half of the seedlings are fair. I have destroyed hundreds of varieties better than Progressive and have kept only three varieties of new race ever-bearing.

Now I shall plant a row of pistillate new race variety with new race ever-bearing on each side of them, plant the seeds of the middle row and watch the new wonders unfold.

To Mr. Etter, due credit should be given for producing a new race of strawberries distinguished for unique flavor, indelible color and firmness unequalled in berries. The new vines are very robust, with long roots, splendid plants with beautiful leaves in the sunshine, reflecting golden tints like a picture that has been splashed with gold powder. Some with evergreen leaves and some with honey sweet berries that cure on the vines like raisins. One variety produces berries firm as cherries that will not fade or turn soft when cooked for canning, and the strange thing about it is that this one is made by crossing two little, soft, white, wild berries of no value. The variety does not produce large berries, but in the can they appear larger because they hold their form when cooked.

Mr. Etter has combined the wild beach berry and all the other wild varieties with well known berries such as Dornan, Fendall and others, and remarkable progress has been made simply by crossing the wild varieties with each other.

1923
E V E R G R E E N P L A N T A T I O N→* WM. MARSHALL FREEMAN *←
N E W M E A D O W S , I D A H O .

Date , 192 . . .

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1 Plant	✓ "New Race" Everbearing Strawberry	1.00
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1 Dozen	✗ HillO Strawberry (Half wild purple berry)	1.00
1 Dozen	✗ Oscar Strawberry (Choice Table fruit)	1.00
1 Dozen	✗ Albert Strawberry (Prolific — frost proof)	1.00
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